

REMARKS

Elected claims 1-10 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-10 were rejected.

Claims 1, 2, and 7-10 are amended. Thus, claims 1-10 remain pending for reconsideration, which is respectfully requested.

No new matter is being presented

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 U.S.C. 102

Claims 1-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Will. Will is newly cited, and, thus, newly relied upon.

The claimed present invention provides:

1. (ORIGINAL) A profile creation method for use in conversation system having a plurality of terminal devices that can exchange messages among each other, the plurality of terminal devices being connected to a network and sharing one of a plurality of virtual conversation spaces formed on the network, said method comprising steps of:

providing predetermined keywords and predetermined categories such that the keywords and categories are correlated to each other;

identifying a category that corresponds to a keyword ***if the message exchanged within the virtual space contains the keyword***; and

storing the identified category such that the category is correlated to a user (emphasis added).

Will discloses matchmaking in a chat room context where a user A relies on user's B personal directory 20 as a starting point to find more interesting persons. In Will, user A accesses some of the information contained in directory 20 of user B about other users with collaborative conferencing capability, with whom user B communicates. In Will, the information that user A can access is limited according to permissions assigned to each record in the directory by user B (FIG. 3). Therefore, Will does not disclose or suggest the claimed present invention's, "***profile creation***" computer system by "***identifying a category*** that corresponds to a keyword ***if the message exchanged within the virtual space contains the keyword***."

The Examiner in page 2 of the Office Action relies on Will, column 3, lines 51-58, for disclosing the claimed present invention's, "**profile creation**" computer system by "**identifying a category** that corresponds to a keyword **if the message exchanged within the virtual space contains the keyword.**" However, column 3, lines 51-65, clearly discloses that if user A believes that he or she shares common interests with user B, user A will engage in collaborative conferencing with user B, and that such determination of common interest is made after obtaining information about user B. Will discloses, "the information is obtained by communicating with user B," and the "manner in which user A communicates with user B in order to determine whether he or she is likely to be interested in communicating with user B (possibly via some other communication means or links) includes, but is not limited to, telephonic conversations, email, voice mail, real-time video, and real-time text."

Therefore, Will only discloses types of communications that one user can conduct with another user **so that a user can determine** a common interest, but Will does not disclose or suggest a "**profile creation**" computer system that operates by "**identifying a category** that corresponds to a keyword **if the message exchanged within the virtual space contains the keyword.**" In other words, contrary to the Examiner's suggestion, Will, column 3, lines 51-58 and column 4, lines 17-33, do not disclose or suggest a user profile based upon a conversation computer system, such as an IRC, that **analyzes contents** of the user's **messages** submitted in the IRC. In other words, the claimed invention provides a conversation computer system that **monitors conversation messages** in a virtual conversation space based on a **categorized keyword**, and **a user profile is created based upon the conversation message monitoring.**

Independent claims 1, 2, and 7-10 are amended for clarity by expressly reciting **"monitoring whether a message sent to a virtual space contains at least one of the keywords,"** as follows:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A profile creation method for use in conversation system having a plurality of terminal devices that can exchange messages among each other, the plurality of terminal devices being connected to a network and sharing one of a plurality of virtual conversation spaces formed on the network, said method comprising steps of:

providing predetermined keywords and predetermined categories such that the keywords and categories are correlated to each other;

monitoring whether a message sent to a virtual space contains at least one of the keywords;

identifying a category that corresponds to a keyword **if the message exchanged within sent to the virtual space contains the keyword;** and

storing the identified category such that **the category is correlated to a user who sent the message to the virtual space** (emphasis added).

In Will, a person that User B has communicated using various communication methods is only added to a directory, so a directory is not created based on a message made in the virtual space. Therefore, Will fails to disclose or suggest the claimed present invention's configuration in which a user message in the virtual space is monitored and analyzed based on a keyword correlated to a category, and a profile is created according to the virtual space message monitoring and analysis. Thus, in contrast to Will, in the claimed present invention messages in the virtual space are monitored.

Further, Will in column 4, lines 51-60, discloses, "The software has a routine that monitors the communication between user B and other users (e.g., C-F) and that adds to the directory 20 information about the users that communicate with the user B." However, this description in Will relates to ***identifying users to which a user B communicates*** with (recipients in relation to user B) ***to create the directory 20 for user B***, so that other users can access the personal directory 20 of user B, as shown in FIGS. 1, 3, and 4. Will in column 4, lines 54-57, clearly discloses, "an alternative to manually creating the directory is to have the software that enables collaborative conferencing create the directory 20 for the user. The software has a routine that monitors the communication between user B and other users (e.g.,

C-F) and that adds to the directory 20 information about the users that communicate with the user B.”

In particular, Will expressly discloses, “add to the directory 20 information about the users that communicate with the user B,” such that the system of Will does not create a profile of the user B based upon messages submitted by user B in the IRC. In other words, Will only provides, “access [to] personal directory of one of the interesting persons” (FIG. 4, operation 402), and Will fails to provides the claimed present invention’s conversation computer system, such as an IRC, that ***analyzes contents of*** the user’s ***messages*** submitted in the IRC. Therefore, Will cannot disclose or suggest the claimed present invention’s, “***profile creation***” computer system that operates by “***monitoring whether a message sent to a virtual space contains at least one of the keywords; identifying a category*** that corresponds to a keyword ***if the message exchanged within- sent to the virtual space contains the keyword***; and ... ***the category is correlated to a user who sent the message to the virtual space***” (e.g., amended independent claim 1).

In view of the amendments and remarks, withdrawal of the rejection of pending claims and allowance of pending claims is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.


Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

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If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,
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